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GENERAL

1. US view on Chinese intervention in Korea--The Department of State, in examining the possibility of the Chinese Communists defending North Korea if UN forces cross the 38th Parallel, expresses the view that the only question is the extent of Chinese intervention in Korea. In support of this view, the Department points out that Manchuria is now a very important source of supply for North Korea and that 20-30,000 Chinese-trained troops of Korean origin have already been sent to the North Korean army. The Department feels that any Chinese Communist statements regarding intervention at this time can only be designed to dissuade UN members from supporting firm UN action. The Department emphasizes that a hostile army in the field is continuing operations against UN forces and that any delay in a UN decision on Korea could only result in increased defiance of the UN, as well as placing further difficulties in the way of achieving a unified Korea.

2. Danish opinion favors crossing 38th Parallel--US Ambassador Anderson in Copenhagen reports that the recently-expressed fears of the Danish Prime Minister that Danish support would be lost if UN forces crossed the 38th Parallel are not being confirmed by the current trend in press comment or public opinion. The Ambassador comments that the magnitude and speed of the UN advances in Korea seem to have overcome recent Danish apprehension; she adds, however, that these Danish anxieties "may be expected to remain just under the surface."

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STATE review(s) completed.

T O P S E C R E T

EUROPE

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3. THE NETHERLANDS: Delay in extending military service-- US Ambassador Chapin in The Hague reports that although Dutch Prime Minister Drees is prepared to continue the military service of most Dutch conscripts beyond 12 months "if necessary for technical reasons," he refuses to make an official public decision in the matter. Chapin adds that Marshal Montgomery is expected to make an "emphatic representation" to Drees regarding the necessity for extending the military service term to 18 months. According to Chapin, the British Ambassador at The Hague believes that the Dutch will eventually "fall in line."

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. CEYLON: Suggested strengthening of defense--US Embassy London reports that the Government of Ceylon has suggested that the UK underwrite an expanded Ceylon defense program and has intimated that the US should also be called upon to help. The Government of Ceylon apparently feels that it should provide men and sites for bases in return for Western arms and equipment. The Embassy comments that the UK will probably reject the Ceylonese approach and suggest that Ceylon itself assume greater responsibility for improving its security position.

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FAR EAST

5. INDOCHINA: French military tactics in Indochina--The Commanding general of French forces in the Far East, General Carpentier, in discussing the recent abandonment of several

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northern border posts by French forces, stated that the primary French aim was the defense of the "useful" portions of North Vietnam. Carpentier declared that the abandoned border posts, which had previously been important for collecting intelligence, hindering Sino-Viet Minh collaboration, and disarming fleeing Chinese Nationalist remnants, were no longer "worth the military risks." (Meanwhile, press reports quote a French communique to the effect that the frontier post of Caobang has been abandoned, making a total of four such points given up by the French since 18 September.)

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6. KOREA: Situation in South Korean capital--US Ambassador Muccio in Seoul, in reviewing the situation in the South Korean capital since the entrance of UN forces, reports that the population appears to be genuinely happy to see the UN forces and to be relieved of the intolerable Communist occupation. The Ambassador confirms earlier press reports of general devastation and destruction throughout Seoul, but points out that a considerable part of the destruction of larger structures seems to be the result of fires started by the Communists prior to their departure. Muccio adds that the Government of Korea is approaching the problem of reprisals against collaborators cautiously, having already called on the population to exercise restraint; he feels that the "revenge problem" is somewhat easier because the Communists took several thousand collaborators and hostages with them.

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